# Nature & You



News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • May/June 2016

### The thrill of the tug is why we fish

can't remember my first time. I don't think I can recall my second time. I haven't got a clue about my third. Truth is, I don't remember these, not because they weren't memorable, but because it all started when I was very young. Much like I don't remember my first steps, I don't remember my first fish. What I do know is that I can't remember a time when I wasn't fishing.

When I was young, I can remember being bribed to complete chores with the reward of a trip down to the river or a pond somewhere. Even today, I find joy as I think about trips that were a bit further from home. Stories of sunken boats, broken rods and the ones that got away we'll have to save for another day. Even through my teenage years you could often find me down at the creek fishing for sunfish that were merely just a few inches long. I was thrilled by any tug on my line no matter how big

or small. As I grew, so did most of my fishing habits. I've been fortunate to travel a bit, and it seems many of my travels have included some component of fishing. Fishing isn't just something I do, it's part of who I am.

It's good to know I'm not alone. Fishing is not only important to me, but to many others.

It's good to know I'm not alone. Fishing is not only important to me, but to many others as well. According to recent information compiled, there are approximately 1.5 million anglers in Missouri. Those anglers spend about \$685 million while fishing in Missouri. These anglers are estimated to support nearly 11,000 jobs and have a total economic impact of \$1.1 billion. However, those numbers seem small when compared to the entire U.S. The U.S. has roughly 46 million anglers that support 825,000 jobs with a total economic impact of \$114.5 billion. To simply say that fishing is important would be a gross understatement.

These numbers equal good news for those who would like to try fishing. There's also good news for veteran anglers who want to get

better. Those numbers round out to be around 20 percent of the people that live in Missouri go fishing. Put another way, one out of every five people go fishing. For those that haven't fished, you probably know quite a few people that do. For those that do, you probably know quite a few people that don't. Research also indicates that most people are willing to go fishing, if they are invited. I invite you to get the discussion going about fishing within your circle of friends. I invite you to give fishing a try.

If you discover that you don't have any friends that fish or that you would like more info about fishing, MDC is here to help. We offer a full line of resources to meet your needs. Our website at **http://mdc.mo.gov** offers a wealth of information. If you're looking for a class that teaches fishing skills, we have those too. Check out our Discover Nature – Fishing programs offered around the state. If you give fishing a try, you just might find a new way to discover nature close to you.

- Nathan Woodland, Parma Woods Range Supervisor





Her latest adventure was a source to sea canoe trip on the Missouri and Mississippi River, which is chronicled at http:// beyondabook.org/ontheriver. During the 3,500 mile journey she linked her trip to classrooms to inspire the next generation of stewards and explorers. This trip and others are part of the Beyond A Book project that serves as a resource for teachers looking to integrate adventure into their classrooms to foster lifelong learners, boundary pushers, explorers and stewards.

Originally from Kansas City, Sara is excited to be a part of the ever growing community of Missouri River supporters and enthusiasts.

May 25 · Wednesday · 6:30–7:30 PM Burr Oak Woods Nature Center Registration not required (all ages)

### **Burr Oak Woods** Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, handson nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

#### **NATURE CENTER HOURS:**

Tuesday-Friday: 7 AM-6 PM Saturday: 8 AM-5 PM

#### **AREA AND TRAILS:**

Daily: 7 AM-6 PM Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM-8 PM Closed all state holidays.

#### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

#### What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays · 3 PM Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes will be fed every other Friday (May 13 & 27 and June 10 & 24).

#### Mighty Missouri River Workshop

May 4 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM Registration required. Begins April 15 by calling Lisa LaCombe at 816-655-6263 ext. 1332 or e-mail lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov (adults) **Orientation:** Have you ever wondered what it would be like to join in on an exploration of the Mighty Missouri River? Then this workshop is for you! We will begin with an orientation on May 4 to learn or brush up on your canoe strokes before we head out on the Missouri River. We will prepare you

for the two upcoming floats. This workshop is led by an enthusiastic MR 340 finisher and American Canoe Association certified

**Day Float:** On May 21 from noon–5:00 PM We will set out on a 10 mile float trip on the Missouri River from LaBenite Park to Cooley Lake Access.

Overnight Float: June 11–12 Missouri River Overnight – time and location to be determined.

#### **Amphibian Friends: Frog Edition**

May 7 · Saturday · 1−2 PM No registration required (all ages) Enjoy a live animal program with Missouri native frogs and toads. Come learn fun frog facts and test your tadpole knowledge.

#### Little Acorns: Frog Hop

May 11 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM May 12 · Thursday · 11 AM–Noon Registration required (ages 3–5) Big frogs, little frogs, old frogs and young, we will catch them all and have a hopping good time!

#### Home School: Life in a Pond

May 11 · Wednesday · 10-11:30 AM for ages 6-8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8, 9–11 Registration required

Who lives in a pond? Fish, frogs and even insects call ponds home. Join us as we discover the wild communities in the education pond. We will be fishing, using nets to find macroinvertebrates and hiking to explore the watershed surrounding the pond.

#### **Discover Nature** Family Fishing

May 14 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM Registration required (families) Summer is a great time to take your family fishing. We will teach some fishing basics; provide equipment and worms and then your family will try their luck fishing. Kids who attend will be entered in a drawing at the end of the summer for a new fishing pole and tackle box. Lessons 1 and 2 of the Discover Nature Fishing program are included in this class.



#### **Atlatl for Families**

May 14 · Saturday · Noon-2 PM Registration required (families with children ages 8+) Have you ever heard of an atlatl? It's a hunting tool that has been around for thousands of years and is still being used in Missouri today. It is fun for target practice too! Bring your family for some outdoor fun as we learn this primitive skill and test our atlatl abilities.

#### **Babes in the Woods: Pond Play**

May 17 · Tuesday · 10−11 AM Registration required (babes under 36 months) Little ones love the water. It's a great way to experience nature on a warm day. Join Naturalist Kathleen at the education pond for some splashing with your babe.

#### What's Blooming

May 17 · Tuesday · 1−3 PM Registration required (adults) Jazz up your spring meals with beauty, color and nutrition by adding a few tasty wild edible spring wildflowers!

#### **Conservation Kids Club: Take Your Parent Camping Night**

May 20-21 · Friday-Saturday · 6 PM-8 AM Registration required by calling Lisa LaCombe at 816-655-6263 ext. 1332 or e-mail lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov (ages 7-13 & parent) Kids! Have you always wanted to go camping? Whether you are an old hand at camping or you have always wanted to try it, this campout is for you. Don't miss out on this special evening under the stars. Activities include canoeing, fishing, stories and songs around the campfire.

### **Burr Oak Woods** Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280

#### **Scouting Wildlife Adventure Series: Feathers and Forests**

May 21 · Saturday · 1−3 PM Registration required (Scout groups with ages 7–17, one adult for every 6 scouts) Calling all Scouts! Jump into nature fun with this amazing series of programs. Each program will include meeting with a Naturalist to learn about careers in conservation, seeing live animals up-close and learning about endangered and extinct species. Birds and forest plants will be focused upon and we'll also head out on the trail for spontaneous nature discoveries!

#### **Archery for Families**

May 28 · Saturday · 10 AM-Noon June 25 · Saturday · 1–2:30 PM or 2:30–4 PM Registration required (families with children ages 8+) Rediscover the ancient art of archery! Discover the fun at this family activity as parents and kids learn together. We will teach and practice the basics, helping you perfect your stance to shoot more consistently and accurately.

#### Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

May 28 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon June 25 · Saturday · 11 AM–Noon Walk-in (ages 2+)

Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

#### **Outdoor Skills Special**

Rotation: Canoeing

May 31 · Tuesday · 8:30 AM-1 PM

Registration required by calling Lisa LaCombe at 816-655-6263 ext. 1332 or e-mail lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov (individuals with special needs and their guardian or care giver) This program is reserved for those outdoor enthusiasts young or young at heart that may have special physical or mental needs (quardian or care giver must attend). Morning Rotation: Air Rifles, Fishing; Campfire lunch will be provided; Afternoon

#### **Alternative Fishing Methods**

June 4 · Saturday · 10 AM–Noon Registration required begins May 3 (adults) Trot lines, jug lines, bows and gigs have been used to catch fish in Missouri for many, many years. But what are they and how do you catch fish with them? Join us as we explore some of these different ways to catch fish. We will see how to set the lines and then check lines that have been set in our pond to see what we catch!

#### Slithering Snakes

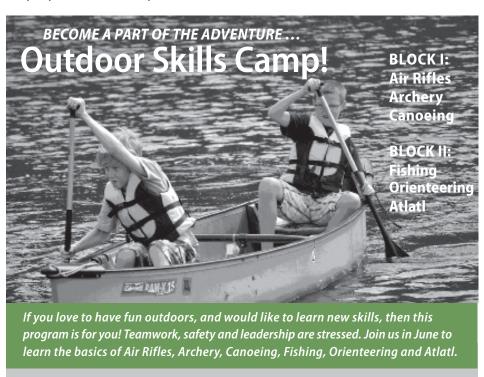
June 11 · Saturday · 1−2 PM No registration required (all ages) Meet some of our Missouri native snakes and learn some fun snake facts. They are not as scary as you think... unless you are a mouse!

#### **Little Blue Trace** Wild Edible Foraging

June 11 · Saturday · 9–11 AM Registration required (adults) So you are not sure where you can gather wild edible plants? The Little Blue Trace Trail is a great place you can go. Bring your cameras, smart phones, ID books and collection bags. We are going foraging!

#### **Firefly Experience**

June 18 · Saturday · 7:30-9:30 PM Registration required (all ages) Blinking and dancing in the evening sky, the magic and beauty of fireflies is breathtaking. Use this evening to learn more about these favorite insects. Then hike into the darkening forest to watch the fireflies.



#### How to register:

Call 816-228-3766

#### FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS ONLY:

registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 17

#### **RETURNING PARTICIPANTS:**

registration will begin at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18 WALK-IN REGISTRATION IS NOT PERMITTED FOR THIS PROGRAM.

Pick your session from these dates and blocks:

Ages 8–11	Mix or Match Days	
DATE JUNE 1,7,9 JUNE 3,8,14	8:30 AM–Noon Block I Block II	12:30–4 PM Block II Block I
Ages 12–18	Mix or Match Days	

### Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

#### **HOURS:**

May 1–September 15 Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM September 16–April 30 Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM Closed Monday and Tuesday and all state holidays.

# **FACILITIES AND FEES:** Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour
- Shotgun pattern: \$3 per person per hour

#### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

#### Teens & Firearms – Rifle

May 12 · Thursday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 11–17)

This course is designed for teens who would like to explore the safe usage of firearms.

Topics to be covered will include safety, parts of a .22 rifle, marksmanship and much more.

#### **Introduction to Skeet**

May 14 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM June 11 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM Registration required (ages 12+) Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport.

#### Introduction to Rifle Cartridge Reloading

May 14 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM Registration required (adults)
Reloading your own rifle cartridges offers many advantages. Shooters can fine-tune their loads to yield higher degrees of accuracy and shoot more for less money. Hunters can create custom loads which can increase the versatility of one rifle, in order to apply it for different purposes. Reloading ammunition is safe, enjoyable and practical, and this course will show you everything you need to get started.

#### **Basic Pistol...PLUS**

May 21 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM Registration required (adult)
This course continues where the Basic
Handgun course ends. The topics of
discussion include purchasing and owning
a firearm, ammunition facts, cleaning and
storage of your firearm. We also will work on
your marksmanship skills on the range.

#### **Ancient & Modern Archery**

May 28 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM Registration required (ages 11+)
The bow and arrow has been with mankind since before civilizations took shape.
From the hunter gatherer to the Olympic archer, the basic principles of this tool have remained unchanged, even as the supplemental technologies have certainly advanced. In this course, you will learn about the incredible history of archery and will have the chance to shoot a variety of different types of bows.

#### **Basic Shotgun**

June 4 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

This is an introduction to shotgun class which will focus on safe handling of firearms, types of actions, gauges, shotshell construction and chokes. Shooting stance, proper shoulder mounting and fit will also be discussed in the class. There will be range time to try out these new shooting techniques.

#### **Beginning Archery**

June 5 · Sunday · 9–11:30 AM Registration required (ages 11–17) Archery has become a very popular sport amongst the public, whether for hunting or the MoNASP program in school districts. Learn more about the fundamentals of shooting archery such as proper stance, draw techniques, equipment and follow through.

#### Teens & Firearms – Pistol

June 9 · Thursday · 6–8 PM Registration required (ages 11–17)
The course is for designed for teens who would like to explore the safe usage of firearms. Topics to be covered will include safety, parts of a .22 rifle, marksmanship and much more.

### Women's Firearms Safety – Phase I

June 11 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM Registration required (women adult) Thinking about introducing a firearm into your home? This course is designed specifically for women who are interested in gaining knowledge about firearms. Topics discussed include introducing a firearm into the home, basic marksmanship and laws regarding ownership of firearms.

#### **Basic Pistol**

June 25 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM Registration required (adults)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

#### **Family Trap**

June 26 · Sunday · 9–11:30 AM
Registration required (ages 12+)
Trap shooting is a fun shooting sport to
experience. This course will cover basic
firearm safety, different actions on shotguns,
proper shot size, proper firearm fit and
shot follow through. Trap is a good way for
an upland game hunter to improve their
shotgun skills.

### Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • mdc.mo.gov/node/283

### **Making the Outdoors More Accessible**

ome of my most memorable career experiences occurred while assisting with events geared towards persons with disabilities. I have met some great people and have had the opportunity to share unique experiences with them. I've had the opportunity to witness many firsts. Those include first fish caught, first deer or turkey harvested, first arrows projected at targets and first shots fired from guns. The most memorable though, have been the smiles that linger from those events. I've experienced nothing like it.

Another thing I remember from these events is comments from those attending. However, there seems to be a common theme that concerns me. I often hear participants and their families say they had no idea we offered these programs. Another is that people are surprised to learn how easy some tasks are, or they are amazed at how many places there are to enjoy the outdoors. MDC is working to remove barriers that prevent people with disabilities from enjoying the outdoors. Throughout the state, construction of new facilities and renovations at older properties

are providing access for all to

Conservation Department areas,

buildings and shooting ranges.

Truth be told, the outdoors is much more accessible than you might think. MDC also has a variety of programs and resources to help you discover nature, even if you live with a disability. In fact, all of our sites represented in this newsletter have accessible facilities available for your enjoyment. Another option is to attend our Missouri's Accessible Outdoors event at Parma Woods Shooting Range on May 14. In addition to learning about accessible resources, you'll also have the opportunity to shoot.

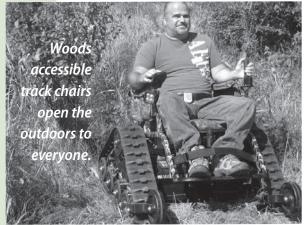
> – Nathan Woodland Parma Woods Range Supervisor

#### **Families Air Rifle Plinking Class**

May 18 · Wednesday · 6-8 PM Registration required (ages 5+) Plinking is a great way to spend some quality time with your family. Bring your family out to the range to discover, or rediscover, the fun of plinking at reactive targets with an air rifle. Our certified instructors will discuss the safe use of air rifles and supervise shooters during some good old plinking fun. This is not a how-to-shoot class so we do ask that participants have some prior shooting experience.

#### **Intro to Shotgun Shooting**

May 26 · Thursday · 5:30-8:30 PM Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11-17 must be accompanied by an adult) Shooting a shotgun at a moving target can be a humbling experience. Misses often come easy, but our certified instructors can help make your transition from a stationary target to a moving one a bit simpler. Attendees should expect a brief lecture regarding safety, shotgun basics, shooting fundamentals and more. Afterwards we'll head to the range to put theory into practice.



#### **Catfishing Kansas City**

June 15 · Wednesday · 6–9 PM Registration required (all ages) According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Data, around 42 percent of all anglers in Missouri pursue catfish, making them Missouri's most sought after fish. Whether you are a seasoned catfish angler or a complete novice, you will benefit from this course as we discuss when, where, why and how to fish for this whiskered wonder.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/ shotgun range, and archery range.

#### **HOURS:**

May 1-September 30 Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM-8 PM Friday-Sunday: 10 AM-4 PM October 1-April 30 Friday-Tuesday: Noon-4:30 PM Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

#### **FACILITIES AND FEES:**

- Rifle/pistol/shotgun/range: \$3 booth
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

#### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

#### Youth Hunter Education Day Camp

June 27–July 1 · Monday–Friday · 9 AM–3 PM Registration required (ages 11–15) This annual event at Parma Woods is an extended version of our traditional Hunter Education Class. Youth that participate in this year's day camp will get the opportunity to receive valuable hands on experience in the safe handling and shooting of rifles, shotguns, muzzleloading rifles and archery equipment. Other skills incorporated in camp will include survival skills, scouting and tracking game, map and compass navigation, and more. Students should attend all five sessions. Youths that successfully pass the exam at the conclusion of the class will receive Hunter Education Certification.

### Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/ fishing permits at the gift shop.

#### **HOURS:**

Monday-Friday: 8 AM-5 PM 1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM-7 PM 1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM-4 PM Closed all state holidays.

#### TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

#### **Scout Program**

May 3 · Tuesday · Evening *Registration required* (Scouts) Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center and education staff will provide a program helping your Scouts with rank achievement. Missouri Scout groups of 10-24 participants may schedule a free program. Contact Steve Jacobsen at 816-759-7305 ext. 1146 or steve.jacobsen@mdc.mo.gov to schedule.

#### **Attracting Hummingbirds**

May 7 · Saturday · 10 AM−2:30 PM Walk-in (all ages)

The ruby-throated hummingbird is one of Missouri's most fascinating birds! Would you like to learn how to attract these summer visitors by providing food sources for them in your yard or garden? Join us as we learn about the native plants, insects and sweet nectar loved by this tiny creature, also known as nature's helicopter!

#### **Nature Nuts Storytime**

May 7 · Saturday · 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon

May 21 · Saturday · 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome) Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

#### **Adult Summer Camp:** Fun with the Sun

May 17 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM Registration required (adults) Making beautiful impressions of leaves and grasses is easy with a printmaking process using the sun, water and blueprint paper. We'll take a short hike through the Discovery Center landscape identifying and collecting native plants that will be used to create our solar prints.

#### Missouri Master Naturalist Open House

May 17 · Tuesday · 6–7:30 PM Walk-in (adults) Interested in volunteering with local conservation groups? If so, the Missouri Master Naturalist program might be right for you. This open house is designed to help answer any questions you might have concerning our fall training class. You may also find more information at http://osagetrails.com.

#### **Homeschool: Glades and Forests**

May 18 · Wednesday · 10 AM−1:30 PM Registration required (ages 8–14) Glades and forests are two of Missouri's unique ecosystems. Join the Discovery Center naturalists at Rocky Point Glade



to learn about the characteristics of forests and glades. There will be fun hands on activities for all ages. We will conclude the event with a hot dog lunch.

#### The American Buffalo: **Beast of the Prairie**

May 21 · Saturday · 10 AM−2:30 PM Walk-in (all ages)

Tatanka, pezhekee and iinii were just a few names that Native Americans called the American buffalo or bison. No matter what name you call them, the largest mammal of the prairies is the defining symbol of



these wild lands. Bison proved to be extremely useful for all who encountered them. Come explore the world of the bison and learn about its past, present and future.

#### **Troost Festival**

May 21 · Saturday · Noon-10 PM Join the Discovery Center staff at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Troost Ave. Festival located at 31st Street and Troost Ave. This family friendly street fair will have a diverse mix of music, dancers and other performances, children's activities and food. The Discovery Center staff will be at the festival from noon until 2:30 p.m. so stop by, say hello and try out the fun activity we will have.

#### **Leafy Tees**

June 4 · Saturday · 10 AM−2:30 PM Walk-in (all ages)

The printing of natural objects to portray their own image is an ancient expression of art. We'll walk the Discovery Center trails identifying native trees and prairie plants. Using the leaves and grasses we collect, we will create a wearable work of art using fabric inks. Tee shirts are provided.

#### **Nature Nuts Storytime**

June 4 · Saturday · 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon or 1-2 PM

June 18 · Saturday · 10–11 AM, 11 AM–Noon or 1-2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome) Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

#### MDC Discover Nature programs help Missourians discover and explore nature while providing expert instruction and hands-on activities.



#### **Adult Summer Camp: Archery**

June 7 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM Registration required (adults) Remember shooting a bow and arrow at summer camp as a kid or the camaraderie of shooting with friends and challenging each other to hit the bullseye? Bring your friends and relive the fun as you learn the basics of shooting a compound bow. There will be plenty of time for shooting and some fun games for those who want to reminisce their childhood days with friends.

#### **Insects of the Prairie**

June 18 · Saturday 7 · 10 AM-2:30 PM Walk-in (all ages)

A prairie is home to thousands of different



insect species. Grasshoppers, milkweed buas, fireflies, butterflies and bees can all be found in a prairie. They play an important role in pollination, decomposition and in food chains. Join us as we investigate the bountiful

prairie insects that can be found in the soil, on plants and in the air. We'll practice our identification skills and you'll create insect art to take home with you.

#### **Adult Summer Camp: Canoeing**

June 21 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM Registration required (adults) Canoeing provides a fun recreational opportunity to enjoy water environments. This beginner's level program will teach you basic paddle strokes and allow time to practice and explore. We will go to a nearby pond for this class. Specific directions will be given when you register.



### Have fun with summer camp for adults

hy should kids get all the fun? You know you want to try archery, gigging for frogs and canoeing just like the kids do at



summer camp. Discovery Center staff has created programs just for the kid in all of us. Join our experienced staff this summer to

learn a new skill, meet new friends and maybe pick up a new hobby.

Sessions will be held on the evenings of the first and third Tuesdays throughout summer. You will need to register for each class individually, but you can participate in as many sessions as you want. We look forward to seeing you at camp this summer:

**Printmaking May 17** June 7 Archery Canoeing June 21 **Atlatl** July 5 **July 19 Frog Gigging** Mo River by Boat August 2 August 18 Mo River by Boat

### **Prairies touched** by fire and light

uring May and June, the Discovery Center is hosting an exhibit from the Great Plains Fire Science Exchange and Osage Trails Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists. The exhibit highlights the importance of fire on plants and wildlife that call Missouri prairies home. Beautiful photos of local prairie species complement inspiring quotes and digital images of prairie management in action.

### 2016 SeedSavers:KC seed, bulb & plant exchange May 7

oin SeedSavers-KC 9:30 a.m. J to noon on Saturday, May 7 at the Discovery Center and share your plants, seeds and bulbs with gardeners from all over town. Please do not bring invasive species, aggressive growers or supercommon varieties.

New gardeners can participate and take home up to five plants, but veteran gardeners are expected to take home no more plants than the number they bring to the exchange. Visit http://seedsavers-kc.org for more details.

### Missouri Master Naturalist volunteers will hold open house

nterested in volunteering with local conservation groups? If so, the Missouri Master Naturalist program might be right for you. This program is designed to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within our community.

The Missouri Master Naturalist Volunteer Program Open House welcomes people interested in learning about the program. The open house will be 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17 at the Discovery Center. Master Naturalists will answer any questions you might have concerning our fall training class. You may also find more information at http://osagetrails.com. Applications will be available on this website by May 15 and are due by June 15.

# MDC now offers text updates for activities at Nature Centers

ubscribers can get messages about programs or nature's unusual events. Burr Oak Woods Nature Center and Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center both now offer text message alerts about events or interesting nature tidbits, such as frost flowers appearing in winter or rare bird sightings in summer. Subscribers can receive up to six texts per month.

To sign up for Discovery Center texts, text the words "MDC Discovery" to 468311.

To receive text notices from Burr Oak Woods, text the words "MDC Woods" to 468311.

Our natural areas, exhibits and gardens change with the seasons. Program offerings also vary through the year. Subscribing to our text service will keep you up to date and let you know about any late-breaking program additions or changes. Thanks for supporting conservation in our community.

### **Preparation for Varmint Hunting**

he months of May and June are a great time for varmint hunters around the state. With summer quickly approaching, varmint hunters anticipate the opportunity to hunt groundhogs, coyotes and ground squirrels in Missouri. They may even challenge themselves by hunting prairie dogs in several of the western and northern states. But before they head out, though, they have some work to do on the range.

- ➤ To ensure that your rifles and scopes are in good working order:
- ➤ Make sure the scope is mounted level and the cross hairs of the scope are not canted. The scope mounting screws should be tight to the rifle action. Check the tightness of the scope rings to the scope mounts. Ensure the scope rings are tight around the scope.
- ➤ At the range, you want to place your target at 25 yards to start. This is important to establish consistency in your bullet placement or bullet group
- ➤ A solid rest for your rifle is needed, a rifle sled, sandbags or a rifle rest. Never sight in your rifles shooting off-hand or unsupported.
- ➤ Once you have 3-5 shots in the same place at 25 yards, move the group to where your shots are one inch below the bullseye. NOTE: know if your scope adjustment is 1/4 MOA in elevation/windage or 1/8 MOA in elevation/windage.
  - ➤ Move your target to one hundred yards. Leave the scope at its highest

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All facilities will be closed for these state holidays: Truman's Birthday, May Memorial Day, May 30 magnification. Fire 3-5 rounds from a solid rest. Make scope adjustment (if needed) so the next 2-3 rounds are an inch or so high above the bull's eye.

Once you have completed this basic sighting in procedure, you will be ready to head for your favorite varmint hunting location. Good hunting!

Steve Elliott,
 Lake City Shooting Range Supervisor



arly summer is a wonderful time to be outdoors and angling at a lake, pond or stream. MDC's Discover Nature – Fishing program gives participants basic angling skills to enjoy fishing and be successful catching fish. The free program covers aspects from gear to fish species and ecology.

Classes are taught by MDC experts and volunteers. Participants will learn about angling gear, fishing skills, fish biology and angling regulations. Classroom teaching is based on hands-on methods. MDC will provide equipment.

The lesson outline includes:

- ➤ Lesson One: Equipment, Casting, and Proper Fish Handling
- ➤ Lesson Two: How to Tie a Knot and Bait a Hook
- ➤ Lesson Three: Five Common Missouri Fish – Their Anatomy, Habitat, and Life Cycle
- ➤ Lesson Four: Fishing with Lures and Fishing Regulations

Discover Nature – Fishing is an ongoing program statewide.

For a schedule of classes in your area, visit https://on.mo.gov/1HWUast

For more info or to register for a class, call Kansas City Regional Office at 816-622-0900. MDC also welcomes volunteers who would like to teach fishing for this program. They may also call the regional office to volunteer.